

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for secure communication comprising:
generating a plurality of virtual private proxies proxy based on an agreement between a first entity and a second entity;
associating a first virtual private proxy of the plurality of virtual private proxies with the first entity and a second virtual private proxy of the plurality of virtual private proxies with the second entity;
monitoring data at the first virtual private proxy associated with the first entity;
determining whether the data violates the agreement; and
disallowing communication of the data from the first virtual private proxy to the second virtual private proxy when the data violates the agreement.
2. (Original) The method for secure communication according to Claim 1, wherein determining whether the data violates the agreement comprises:
examining the data with respect to the agreement at the first virtual private proxy;
determining whether the data is allowed by the agreement; and
indicating a violation when the data does not conform to the agreement.
3. (Original) The method for secure communication according to Claim 2, wherein generating the violation comprises:
generating an alarm based on the violation;
communicating the alarm to an appropriate entity; and
logging the violation.
4. (Original) The method for secure communication according to Claim 3, wherein the appropriate entity is a systems administrator and wherein disallowing the data comprises discarding the data when the data violates the agreement.
5. (Original) The method for secure communication according to Claim 3, wherein the alarm comprises information associated with the violation.

6. (Original) The method for secure communication according to Claim 1, wherein the first virtual private proxy comprises a logical representation of a logical access point between the first entity and a secure switch.

7. (Original) The method for secure communication according to Claim 1, wherein the first virtual private proxy comprises a logical representation of a physical access point between the first entity and a secure switch.

8. (Original) The method for secure communication according to Claim 1, wherein the agreement comprises types of data allowed.

9. (Original) The method for secure communication according to Claim 8, wherein the agreement further comprises a transport protocol indication and a transport security protocol indication and wherein the type of data allowed comprises XML data.

10. (Original) The method for secure communication according to Claim 9, wherein the agreement further comprises a document exchange protocol indication and a process specification document indication.

11. (Original) The method for secure communication according to Claim 1, wherein monitoring the data comprises monitoring data received at the first virtual private proxy from the first entity.

12. (Original) The method for secure communication according to Claim 1, wherein monitoring the data comprises monitoring data received at the first virtual private proxy to be communicated to the first entity.

13. (Currently Amended) A system for secure communication comprising:

means for generating a plurality of virtual private proxies proxy based on an agreement between a first entity and a second entity;

means for associating a first virtual private proxy of the plurality of virtual private proxies with the first entity and a second virtual private proxy of the plurality of virtual private proxies with the second entity;

means for monitoring data at the first virtual private proxy associated with the first entity;

means for determining whether the data violates the agreement; and

means for disallowing communication of the data from the first virtual private proxy to the second virtual private proxy when the data violates the agreement.

14. (Currently Amended) A system for secure communication comprising:
logic stored on a medium and configured operable to:

generate a plurality of virtual private proxies proxy based on an agreement
between a first entity and a second entity;

associate a first virtual private proxy of the plurality of virtual private proxies
with the first entity and a second virtual private proxy of the plurality of virtual private
proxies with the second entity;

monitor data at the first virtual private proxy associated with the first entity;
determine whether the data violates the agreement; and

disallow communication of the data from the first virtual private proxy to the
second virtual private proxy when the data violates the agreement.

15. (Currently Amended) The system for secure communication according to
Claim 14, wherein the logic is further configured operable to:

examine the data with respect to the agreement at the first virtual private proxy;
determine whether the data is allowed by the agreement; and
indicate a violation when the data does not conform to the agreement.

16. (Currently Amended) The system for secure communication according to
Claim 15, wherein the logic is further configured operable to:

generate an alarm based on the violation;
communicate the alarm to an appropriate entity; and
log the violation.

17. (Currently Amended) The system for secure communication according to
Claim 16, wherein the appropriate entity is a systems administrator and wherein the logic is
further configured operable to discard the data when the data is disallowed.

18. (Original) The system for secure communication according to Claim 16,
wherein the alarm comprises information associated with the violation.

19. (Original) The system for secure communication according to Claim 14, wherein the first virtual private proxy comprises a logical representation of a logical access point between the first entity and a secure switch.

20. (Original) The system for secure communication according to Claim 14, wherein the first virtual private proxy comprises a logical representation of a physical access point between the first entity and a secure switch.

21. (Original) The system for secure communication according to Claim 14, wherein the agreement comprises types of data allowed.

22. (Original) The system for secure communication according to Claim 21, wherein the agreement further comprises a transport protocol indication and a transport security protocol indication and wherein the type of data allowed comprises XML data.

23. (Original) The system for secure communication according to Claim 22, wherein the agreement further comprises a document exchange protocol indication and a process specification document indication.

24. (Currently Amended) The method for secure communication according to Claim 14, wherein the logic is further configured operable to monitor data received at the first virtual private proxy from the first entity.

25. (Currently Amended) The method for secure communication according to Claim 14, wherein the logic is further configured operable to monitor data received at the first virtual private proxy to be communicated to the first entity.

26. (Original) A method for secure communication comprising:
generating a first virtual private proxy associated with a first entity;
generating a second virtual private proxy associated with a second entity;
monitoring communications between the first virtual private proxy and the second
virtual private proxy based on an agreement for electronic data exchange between the first
and second entities; and
responding to violations of the agreement based on the agreement.

27. (Original) The method according to Claim 26 and further comprising:
determining a first profile associated with the first entity;
determining a second profile associated with the second entity; and
automatically generating the agreement based on the first and second profiles.

28. (Original) The method according to Claim 26 and further comprising:
linking the first virtual private proxy to the second virtual private proxy over a link;
and
communicating data between the first virtual private proxy and the second virtual
private proxy over the link.

29. (Original) The method according to Claim 28, wherein the link comprises
a logical data link at a secure switch.

30. (Original) The method according to Claim 26, wherein the first virtual
private proxy comprises a logical representation of a logical access point.

31. (Original) The method according to Claim 26, wherein the first virtual
private proxy comprises a logical representation of a logical access point between the first
entity and a secure switch.

32. (Original) The method according to Claim 26, wherein the first and
second entities respectively comprise a business.

33. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 27 ~~Claim 26~~, wherein the first profile comprises at least one indication of business information associated with the first entity.

34. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 27 ~~Claim 26~~, wherein the first profile comprises a transport protocol and a messaging protocol.

35. (Original) The method according to Claim 34, wherein the first profile further comprises a transport security protocol and a specification document.

36. (Original) The method according to Claim 35, wherein the first profile further comprises a name and contact information associated with the first entity.

37. (Original) The method according to Claim 26, wherein determining the violation comprises:

examining the data with respect to the agreement at the first virtual private proxy;
determining whether the data is allowed by the agreement;
determining the violation when the data is not allowed by the agreement; and
communicating the data to the second virtual private proxy when the data is allowed by the agreement.

38. (Original) The method according to Claim 26, wherein responding to the violation comprises:

generating an alarm based on the violation;
logging the violation; and
discarding the data associated with the violation.

39. (Original) The method according to Claim 38, wherein responding to the violation further comprises forbidding communication between the first virtual private proxy and the second virtual private proxy.

40. (Original) A system for secure communication comprising:
means for generating a first virtual private proxy associated with a first entity;
means for generating a second virtual private proxy associated with a second entity;
means for monitoring communications between the first virtual private proxy and the
second virtual private proxy based on an agreement for electronic data exchange between the
first and second entities; and
means for responding to violations of the agreement based on the agreement.

41. (Currently Amended) A system for secure communication comprising:
logic stored on storage and configured operable to:

generate a first virtual private proxy associated with a first entity;
generate a second virtual private proxy associated with a second entity;
monitor communications between the first virtual private proxy and the second
virtual private proxy based on an agreement for electronic data exchange between the first
and second entities; and
respond to violations of the agreement based on the agreement.

42. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 41, wherein the logic is
further configured operable to:

determine a first profile associated with the first entity;
determine a second profile associated with the second entity; and
automatically generate the agreement based on the first and second profiles.

43. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 41, wherein the logic is
further configured operable to:

link the first virtual private proxy to the second virtual private proxy over a link; and
communicate data between the first virtual private proxy and the second virtual
private proxy over the link.

44. (Original) The system according to Claim 43, wherein the link comprises
a logical data link at a secure switch.

45. (Original) The system according to Claim 41, wherein the first virtual
private proxy comprises a logical representation of a logical access point.

46. (Original) The system according to Claim 41, wherein the first virtual
private proxy comprises a logical representation of a logical access point between the first
entity and a secure switch.

47. (Original) The system according to Claim 41, wherein the first and second entities respectively comprise a business.

48. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 42~~Claim 41~~, wherein the first profile comprises at least one indication of business information associated with the first entity.

49. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 42~~Claim 41~~, wherein the first profile comprises a transport protocol and a messaging protocol.

50. (Original) The system according to Claim 49, wherein the first profile further comprises a transport security protocol and a specification document.

51. (Original) The system according to Claim 50, wherein the first profile further comprises a name and contact information associated with the first entity.

52. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 41, wherein the logic is further configured operable to:

examine the data with respect to the agreement at the first virtual private proxy;
determine whether the data is allowed by the agreement;
determine the violation when the data is not allowed by the agreement; and
communicate the data to the second virtual private proxy when the data is allowed by the agreement.

53. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 41, wherein the logic is further configured operable to:

generate an alarm based on the violation;
log the violation; and
discard the data associated with the violation.

54. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 53, wherein the logic is further configured operable to forbid communication between the first virtual private proxy and the second virtual private proxy.

55. (Currently Amended) A method for secure communication comprising:
generating a plurality of virtual private proxies proxy based on an agreement between
a first entity and a second entity;
wherein the agreement further comprises a document exchange protocol indication
and a process specification document indication;
associating a first virtual private proxy of the plurality of virtual private proxies with
the first entity and a second virtual private proxy of the plurality of virtual private proxies
with the second entity;
wherein the first virtual private proxy comprises a logical representation of a logical
access point between the first entity and a secure switch;
monitoring data at the first virtual private proxy associated with the first entity;
examining the data with respect to the agreement at the first virtual private proxy;
determining whether the data is allowed by the agreement;
indicating a violation when the data does not conform to the agreement; and
disallowing communication of the data from the first virtual private proxy to the
second virtual private proxy when the data violates the agreement.